

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 93
By Burchett

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Peyton Manning upon his decision to return for a final year of eligibility as quarterback at the University of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, in this time of unbridled greed and diminished loyalty, it is indeed refreshing to see a young man honor his commitments to his school and his teammates; and

WHEREAS, Wednesday, March 5, 1997 will be forever chronicled as an "orange letter day" at the University of Tennessee, when heralded quarterback and favorite adopted son Peyton Manning announced his decision to return for a final season of eligibility as quarterback of the Volunteers; and

WHEREAS, a collective cheer and sigh of relief resonated throughout Big Orange Country, from Mountain City to Memphis, as Peyton Manning bypassed an early exit to the National Football League with the words, "I am going to stay at the University of Tennessee"; and

WHEREAS, a native of New Orleans and son of Archie and Olivia Manning, the much heralded quarterback arrived at Tennessee in 1994, and since that time has shattered 19 school records, forever endearing himself to the throng of orange-clad supporters who travel to the Hill each fall to see their beloved Vols in action; and

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WHEREAS, his gridiron abilities aside, Peyton Manning is an exemplary human being who personifies everything that is admirable about our young people today; it is not often that a man of his stature walks among us; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this Legislative Body extend our appreciation to Peyton Manning, for forsaking the Big Apple in favor of the Big Orange, as Bill Parcells' and the New York Jets' loss is without a doubt the State of Tennessee's gain; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we recognize Peyton Manning for his commitment to the University of Tennessee, of which all Big Orange fans are especially proud, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success as a Tennessee Volunteer and member of the National Football League.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Peyton Manning and his family, with this final clause omitted from such copies.